10. What Comes Next

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As indicated earlier, this conference was the second in a series, as part of a multi-year effort to chart the future worldwide course of the information revolution. We feel that these two conferences have:

- Outlined in broad terms the major societal trends likely to characterize the information revolution future.[12]

- Developed an initial understanding of the different ways in which this future is likely to play out in various regions of the world.[13]

- Outlined the technology trends likely to drive the information revolution over the next 15-20 years.[14]

These two conferences were useful first and second steps. But much more needs to be done. In particular:

- We need to remove the U.S. bias that is almost certainly present in our results thus far, because of the preponderance of U.S. participants at our two conferences, and gain much more of a non-U.S. perspective.[15]

- We need to begin to understand the course of the information revolution in Latin America, a region not well covered in the November 1999 conference.

- We need to expose and vet our results before a wider international audience, thereby broadening and deepening our understanding of the way in which the information revolution is progressing in different regions of the world, outside of the U.S.

- We need to develop "country models" of the way in which the information revolution is likely to play out in different nations.

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[12] Reported on in Hundley et al (2000).

[13] Reported on in Hundley et al (2000).

[14] Reported on in these proceedings.

[15] The November 1999 societal trends conference had about 75% U.S. participants, only 25% non-U.S. participants. The May 2000 technology conference had over 90% U.S. participants.

To meet these needs, we currently plan the following:

- A small workshop focused on the future course of the information revolution in Latin America, to be held in Washington, D.C. sometime in the Fall of 2000.

- A major international conference in Europe, sometime in the Spring of 2001, addressing the course of the information revolution throughout all of Europe.

- A similar major international conference in Asia, sometime in the Fall of 2001, addressing the course of the information revolution throughout the entire Asia Pacific region.

- An on-going analytic activity to develop a set of information revolution country models, using the results of our first two conferences as an initial point of departure.[16] These models will grow in breadth and depth as time goes on and new insights are gained (e.g., from the Latin America workshop, the European and Asian conferences, etc.). We anticipate using these models as one of the principal integrating mechanisms for the remainder of this project.

Other activities may well be added to this list as time goes on.

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[16] An initial, starter set of such country models was presented in Hundley et al (2000).